

# TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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FEBRUARY 6, 2007

## NEWS NOTES

### Dinner benefits memorial

The Tobyhanna Veterans Council is holding a spaghetti dinner-dance March 31 at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 283, 737 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston, from 7-11 p.m.

Tickets cost \$10 with proceeds going towards the POW-MIA memorial. Music will be donated by The Twins DJ service.

Dedication of the POW-MIA memorial will be held in May.

For further information, call Jack Bravyak, X57362, or Caroline Jurosky, X56789.

### Travel fair to be held in May

The Community Recreation Division will host a travel fair May 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the hallway of Building 1A.

The event is open to military and civilian personnel. A variety of vendors will be present, including hotels, historical farms, whitewater rafters, amusement parks and family fun parks.

For further information, call Jackie Vass, X57584.

### Hunting course set for July

A free hunter education course will be hosted by Tobyhanna Army Depot's Community Recreation Division and the Pennsylvania Game Commission July 27, 5:45 to 9 p.m., and July 28, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The course, which is open to the public, will be held at the depot's Mack Fitness and Recreation Center. To pass, students must be 12 or older and attend both days.

Limited seating is available and advance registration is required. Adults are encouraged to attend with children.

To register, call the Mack Fitness and Recreation Center, X57583, or the One Stop Shop, X58851.

For further information, call Jackie Vass, X57584.

## Lean process saves minutes, miles

by Jacqueline Boucher  
Assistant Editor

Cutting non-value added steps from the raceway installation process has reduced travel distance and repair time for electricians working on the AN/ASM-189 electronics repair van.

Using Lean initiatives, employees reduced the annual travel distance from 266 miles to 47 miles by placing a new raceway kit, parts package and common toolbox near the worksite, within easy reach of the electricians. Additionally, the amount of time spent working on each van dropped from 22 hours to 6 hours after the wheeled carts were developed. Figures are based on the projected workload of 242 vans for fiscal 2007.

Before, electricians had to search for parts and tools before they began work in the van. Now, there will be three kits, packages and toolboxes stocked with equipment stationed near the worksite.

"Using standard raceway and parts kits

will improve our consistency in regards to quality as well as productivity," said Robert Sukel, electrical worker on the AN/ASM-189 van.

Lean is a philosophy and ongoing effort to reduce waste and increase efficiency in all processes by identifying and eliminating activities with little or no value.

"There's a tremendous amount of work being done on these vans and we need to do all we can to streamline processes," said Steve Mikitka, Electrical Recap Support Branch chief, Systems Integration and Support (SIS) Directorate. "The estimated savings produced by implementing these changes will be more than \$104,000." Mikitka was the team leader.

The rapid improvement team realized the electrical buildup process was long and complicated. By observing the process, they learned employees were exiting the van in excess of 40 trips per worker while performing tasks.

"The ultimate goal was to standardize the procedure so electricians can perform

the work in a similar, precise manner and to cut down Repair Cycle Time allowing assets to move quicker and at a reliable rate," said Jason Menago, electronics engineer, Project and Design and Development Division, Production Engineering Directorate.

Time studies showed electricians walked a mile each day during the buildup process. Menago explained that the preassembled carts helped cut the walk length by 80 percent and the work time by 25 percent.

"Using the kitting process makes my job better because I can concentrate more on production and less on looking for parts," said David Ezzell, electrical worker on the vans.

The wheeled carts will be positioned close to the vans thereby preventing workers from having to move in and out of the vans, and around the dock, to retrieve tools and parts. The raceway kits will contain parts pre-cut to standard sizes. Toolboxes will be loaded with cutters, cordless drills, rotary tools,

See LEAN on Page 4



Robert Sukel, left, and Thomas Hooper use new kits, packages and toolboxes during the raceway installation process on an electronics repair van. Electricians were able to cut travel distance and repair time by placing the wheeled carts near the worksite. (Photo by Tony Medici)

### Volunteers participate in youth science competition

Page 3

### New strategy benefits test programs

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### Quilts blanket units serving in desert

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S	C	O	T	T	Y	S	O	N	K
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## Test your Black History knowledge

Find the 20 hidden names of these Black History pioneers. Names are forward, backward and angled. Answers are on Page 6.

1. Spy and conductor of Underground Railroad.
2. Harlem Renaissance poet.
3. Preacher and slave revolt leader.
4. Renowned actress.
5. World-class poet.
6. Catalyst for Montgomery Bus Boycott.
7. First published Black American poet.
8. Young Kunta Kinte.
9. Part of famous acting duo.
10. Ossie's actress counterpart.
11. Shot British major at the Battle of Bunker Hill.
12. Supermodel and talk show host.
13. Take the A-Train with this bandleader.
14. Martin Luther King Jr.'s marching partner and wife.
15. Female shuttle astronaut.
16. Innovative swing-era bandleader.

## Depot prayer breakfast honors MLK

Tobyhanna celebrated the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday with a prayer breakfast at the post restaurant in January.

Elder Leonon Trawick from the Full Gospel Holiness Church of God in Christ was the guest speaker at the event. Trawick is also a transportation management specialist with the Logistics Support Activity (LOGSA).

In addition, Julio

Ascencio read from the Old Testament, Dave Tyree read from the New Testament, Lloyd Fuller performed a solo, and nine members of the Full Gospel Holiness Church of God in Christ Youth Group danced.

"The dance performance by the children was excellent," said Phillip Carter, the depot's Black Employment Program manager. "They displayed a level of respect and humility that

inspired the audience. I believe it is important to support youth who are involved in activities such as Christian arts and dances.

"The breakfast was an success because of those participating in the event and the support and attendance of depot personnel," Carter said.

"I would like to thank everyone for making the event successful. It was also an excellent reminder for Black History Month."



### African Americans in the U.S. Army

During February, the Army celebrates and pays tribute to African-American Soldiers and recognizes the important contributions they have made in past wars and continue to make today.

## Integration of public high schools marks 50th anniversary, remembers struggles

by John Sutkowsky  
EEO Office Manager

Although we celebrate Black History Month each February, this year is particularly special because it marks the 50th Anniversary of one of the most memorable events of the civil rights struggle – the 1957 integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Most people know that President Eisenhower sent federal troops to ensure the high school would be integrated. President Eisenhower's actions were important, because it was the first high profile instance of the U.S. government using its' muscle against a state to enforce the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision. Additionally, up to this time, Eisenhower had been rather passive when it came to the integration of public schools.

Many important facts connected to the integration of Central High School which are not widely known include:

Many of "The Little Rock Nine" (the black students who integrated the previously all-white school) accomplished great things later in life. For example, Ernest Green graduated from Michigan State University and served as Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Affairs under President Jimmy Carter. Also, Dr. Terrance Roberts earned a doctorate degree and taught at

UCLA and Antioch College. In addition, Gloria Karlmark became a prolific computer science writer and magazine publisher.

The Little Rock Nine were constantly harassed, threatened and victimized by classmates and the general population throughout the school year. One of the black students (Melba Pattillo Beals) had acid sprayed in her eyes. It's believed that she would have been blind for the rest of her life if not for the quick action of a member of the 101st Airborne who immediately splashed water on her face.

Even after 1957, most Little Rock whites were so desperate to avoid school integration that in September 1958, Little Rock voters (by almost a 3 to 1 margin) voted to completely close the town's four public high schools. The Little Rock public schools were closed for one year and did not re-open until August 1959.

Because he opposed integration, Arkansas governor Orval Faubus became a popular politician. In 1958, the a Gallup Poll listed him as the tenth most admired person in America. Even after openly defying President Eisenhower, Faubus continued to get re-elected.

Although Faubus served as governor of Arkansas until 1967, his financial situation later deteriorated to the point where he was forced to sell his home and take a position as a teller at a local bank.

## TOBYHANNA REPORTER

The Tobyhanna Reporter is an authorized, biweekly publication for members of the Department of Defense.

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**TEAM**

**TOBYHANNA**

EXCELLENCE IN

ELECTRONICS

# Free Web-based program introduces sciences to students across nation

## eCYBERMISSION

**TOBYHANNA VOLUNTEERS ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE**

by Jacqueline Boucher  
Assistant Editor

Tobyhanna employees are helping increase the nation's number of scientists, mathematicians and engineers by participating in a free Web-based science, math and technology competition.

Terry Hora, Frank Chabala and Michael Parrent promote the Army's eCybermission competition, serve as on-line coaches and evaluate team submissions by volunteering as ambassadors, CyberGuides and virtual judges.

So far this year, more than 2,500 complete teams have been registered.

Five years ago, students in grades six through nine started participating in the annual competition by identifying and resolving a problem in their community that is related to health and safety, arts and entertainment, sports and recreation, or the environment.

This year, the teams of three or four youth can win regional and national awards and up to \$8,000 in U.S. EE Savings Bonds. The competition is open to public, private and home schools, and Department of Defense schools outside the continental United States. Adult advisors help guide the teams through the eCybermission experience.

Hora started judging packages from across the country two years ago. As a virtual judge he independently evaluates and scores about 20 mission folders on-line annually.

"I saw an article in a military publication and thought it [eCybermission] was a pretty cool idea," Hora said, remembering how he got started in the competition. "I looked around the Web site and saw some of the projects, youth and other people involved, and thought it would be interesting to get involved."

Judges have varying backgrounds and areas of expertise, and must be interested in promoting science, math and technology, according to the program's Web site. The site also explains that on average, a judge will spend one hour reviewing individual packages and an estimated 20-25 hours to review all on-line assignments during the judging period. Virtual judges can review their assigned mission folders from anywhere they have an Internet connection. This year the judging period is Feb. 23 through March 15.

Program officials assign project packages to mission folders and each judge is responsible for reading and rating the



**Volunteers and students from around the nation participate in the annual Army Web-based science, math and technology competition.**

projects on a scale of 0-500 based on an established set of guidelines.

"Some of the teams get involved in local government and some perform biological studies," Hora said. "Teams include briefings, papers and Powerpoint slides as part of their package."

He recalled a team that proposed building a playground. They had met all the criteria for submission, plus submitted video evidence of going to their community zoning boards to hear testimony, he said.

Hora is one of three judges that will review a team's mission folder. Mission folders will be judged based on four diverse criteria: Application of science, math and technology; innovation, originality and creativity; benefit to the community, and team collaboration and communication.

"I volunteered again this year because I enjoyed it last time," Hora said. "There are a lot of smart, organized kids out there. It's fun to see how they think about things and then how they go about resolving the issue, experimenting to meet their theories." Hora has a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering and has worked at Tobyhanna for 23 years.

eCybermission officials described the program as 'not your standard typical science fair competition geared to the best and brightest students,' when the program started in 2002. The program was about showing that science, math and technology are a part of daily life and stimulating interest to learn more about those areas.

Chabala believes it's important to support organizations like eCybermission because "it focuses on strengthening the minds of our nation's youth, who are our future." As a CyberGuide last year, he provided online

assistance to teams answering questions and providing guidance through the use of discussion forums, chat rooms and instant messaging.

While the competition is primarily math, science and technology based, Chabala has dealt with issues such as video games and hanging-out. He remembers one student who was looking for an alternative to youth hanging out on the streets in her town.

"I feel every one of us is here for a reason, each one with his or her unique talent. I provide resources and guidance to help teams make discoveries on their own," Chabala said.

CyberGuides work two 2-hour shifts each week from September to February. Weekday shifts are necessary to interact with teams who are working on their mission folders during school hours, after school and in the evening. CyberGuides are available Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. EST, and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, to help students.

"Students are mainly looking for project ideas," Chabala said. "Sometimes they want to know where to find more information about a chosen topic. It's my job to point them in the right direction. I tell them about the numerous Web sites available that can furnish a majority of the information they seek."

Chabala has extensive training and experience in information technology, including computer programming/data processing programs sponsored by the Monroe County Area Vocational Technical School. His studies include intrusion detection and risk management, firewalls, Internet protocol addressing and routing, advanced technology concepts for Web

designers, JavaScript, language basics, designing programs, and programming fundamentals. He's worked at Tobyhanna for 13 years.

"I volunteer simply because I enjoy helping other people," Chabala said. "It's been a very rewarding experience and there's no better feeling you get than from helping your fellow citizen."

Ambassadors represent the "face of the Army" and promote the competition throughout the country. It's their responsibility to visit local schools to generate enthusiasm for the competition among administrators, teachers and students. Ambassadors perform their duties year-round through the use of e-mail, phone calls and meetings.

Parrent is the ambassador for several home school groups in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

He's a chemist who holds a degree in chemistry and biology with minors in math and psychology.

"When it comes to the science stuff, I'm there," said Parrent. "I think the Army has taken an intelligent, proactive approach to resolve a problem shaping up for the future."

Even though he believes home school students have a really good chance at winning, Parrent admits interest in the program isn't what he'd hoped.

"I'll continue to send announcements to let people know the program exists and how students can benefit by competing," he said. "My children are home-schooled and I encourage them to take an interest in the sciences."

As an ambassador, Parrent is prepared to talk to groups about eCybermission. The Army provides promotional materials to help get the message across to potential competitors. He has access to videos, pamphlets, pens, posters and other items.

Parrent has participated in the eCybermission program since it began and has volunteered as a CyberGuide and judge. He's worked at Tobyhanna for 16 years.

Last year, Parrent judged a team that wanted to promote recycling in their town. Another team promoted healthier food selections in the school cafeteria by sponsoring a food fair with parents and students who decided which vendor would get the next contract, he explained.

Regional first place winners and their advisors will visit Washington, D.C., in June to compete in the eCybermission National Judging and Educational Event (NJEE).

Volunteers are active duty, Reserve, National Guard and DoD civilians. For more information on the eCybermission Volunteer Program, contact the program coordinator at: [volunteerprogram@ecybermission.com](mailto:volunteerprogram@ecybermission.com). For additional information on the competition, visit [www.ecybermission.com](http://www.ecybermission.com) or contact [missioncontrol@ecybermission.com](mailto:missioncontrol@ecybermission.com).



REUSE,



REDUCE,



RECYCLE





A Soldier (left) from the Future Combat Systems, Evaluation Brigade Combat Team, views his screen for unforeseen obstacles during an exercise and live demonstration Feb. 1 at Oro Grande Range, Fort Bliss, Texas. (Photos by Maj. Deanna Bague)



Soldiers from the Future Combat Systems, Evaluation Brigade Combat Team, employ an unmanned vehicle to clear a road during an exercise and live demonstration Feb. 1 at Oro Grande Range, Fort Bliss, Texas.

## Military OneSource offers free online tax filing to military, families

**WASHINGTON** — The Defense Department's Military OneSource family support program is once again offering free, online tax preparation and filing for servicemembers and their families.

The service began Jan. 15. It's available to active duty servicemembers, National Guardsmen and reservists and their families.

Servicemembers can put their tax refunds to good use as a deposit in a savings or retirement account or to pay off debts, said Jane Burke, principal director in the Office

of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy.

DoD is launching a campaign called "Military Saves" to encourage servicemembers to save money and eliminate or reduce their personal debt.

Filers who use Military OneSource's online system can expect to receive their refund within 10 days, Burke said. And Military OneSource tax consultants are trained to answer questions on preparing and filing taxes and provide other financial management information.

### LEAN from Page 1

crimpers and other specialty tools. And, the parts package will contain screws, hardware, receptacles and other items needed to complete the job.

"I was there to observe the whole event and address any employee concerns," said Joseph Lilik, union representative. "The whole team was very impressive. They accomplished a lot of major tasks in a very short period of time."

A plan was also created to educate the work force about standard processes, the worker's role in maintaining implemented changes, and management's responsibility to

listen, support and take a proactive approach to Lean sustainment.

Team members remarked that if management and all the other workers who participate in the AN/ASM-189 van electrical buildup process continue to focus their efforts on continuous improvement, then Tobyhanna will set the bar at establishing a Lean culture.

"The Lean process will work, but we [management, shop personnel and process improvement personnel] must be committed to following through and sustaining the improvements and suggestions made during the

event," said Darren Ruby, process improvement specialist, Process Engineering Division, Productivity Improvement and Innovation (PII) Directorate.

Members of the rapid improvement event team were Mike Bannon, electrical worker, Electrical Recap Support Branch, SIS; Steve Vislocky, electronics mechanic, Electronics Services Division, SIS; Bill Droginski, electrician, SIS, and April Garrahan, industrial engineering technician, Process Engineering Division, PII. Garrahan and Ruby were the event facilitators.



David Ezzell, right, and Thomas Hooper install raceway parts as part of the AN/ASM-189 van electrical buildup process. Hooper is an electrical worker. (Photos by Tony Medici)

## U.S. Soldiers testing FCS technology give thumbs up

### Army News Service

**WASHINGTON** — The Army completed the first live-fire exercise, Experiment 1.1, involving Future Combat Systems technologies and equipment at the Oro Grande Range at Fort Bliss, Texas, Feb. 2.

The exercise is the first step in accelerating the delivery of key FCS capabilities to current-force Soldiers, and part of the most comprehensive Army modernization effort in more than half a century.

A platoon of 36 Soldiers tested such FCS technology as Urban and Tactical Unattended Ground Sensors and unmanned vehicles designed to clear roads and buildings, as well as detect persons and objects that may enter a building occupied by Soldiers. Robotics and unmanned vehicles help clear buildings without sending actual Soldiers inside.

"With the Future Force Warrior Individual Ground System, every Soldier knows where their fellow Soldier is, even if they're not next to them," said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Haddad, Future Combat Systems, Evaluation Brigade Combat Team. Another advantage of the FFWIGS is the ability of the platoon leader and the platoon sergeant to locate all their Soldiers on their screen and communicate with them by radio.

"Soldiers won't have to wait for someone to send them the information. Every Soldier will have the ability to listen to real-time information on the radio so he can anticipate the next move. He stays informed, that means he stays alert," Haddad said.

The unattended ground sensors are part of the first FCS spin-out to begin in 2008. Spin-Out 1 also includes an early version of

the FCS Network and the Non-Line-of-Sight Launch System, also tested yesterday. The NLOS-LS gives the Army a highly deployable, long-range precision attack capability with a much-reduced logistical footprint for faster and more sustainable deployments.

"The new technology we have is going to save a lot of lives," said Sgt. 1st Class Andres Rugerio, FCS, EBCT. "That's the thing we're impressed about."

Experiment 1.1 had three phases. Phase 1 involved hardware and software integration and networking and systems interoperability testing in a laboratory environment at Huntington Beach, Calif. Phase 2 involved interoperability testing of various FCS systems in a more realistic, joint operational environment with more than a dozen Soldiers at Fort Bliss.

"The future is now," FCS Program Manager Maj. Gen. Charles Cartwright said yesterday. "Networked Soldiers already are using early FCS systems; and we're getting invaluable Soldier feedback about what works and what needs improving. Today's exercise is further confirmation that the FCS program is working as planned."

Yesterday's live-fire exercise will help ensure that the new technologies tested are sufficiently mature and suitable for the current operational environment. Results of the exercise and the Soldiers' feedback will inform subsequent program development, according to Cartwright. The FCS program has delivered more than five million lines of software code and several pre-production prototype systems on cost and on schedule.

(Maj. Deanna Bague from the Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office contributed to this story.)

Through the Military OneSource Web site [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) servicemembers and their families can get guidance and answers to questions, Burke said.

The Military OneSource service augments the long-standing voluntary income tax assistance program offered through legal centers at most military installations, Burke said.

Volunteers at the centers provide free tax preparation and filing services, she said. (American Forces Press Service)

# Test capability undergoes modernization

by Anthony Ricchiazzi  
Editor

Tobyhanna Army Depot has developed a new strategy to combat test equipment obsolescence by employing modern hardware and software technologies.

The benefits of this include lower maintenance costs, reduced downtime, and the increased accuracy and reliability of diagnostic testing, says Ronald Mercatili, electronics engineer, Test Program Development Division, Production Engineering Directorate. Further benefits include a reduced footprint and faster application development.

Tobyhanna has been a Defense Department leader in the use of automatic test equipment (ATE) as a tool for functionally testing and diagnosing electrical/electronics failures since the 1960s.

For nearly four decades, depot engineers and technicians created and maintained hundreds of Test Program Sets in support of the Defense Department's most critical C4ISR systems. Some of the main ATE used at Tobyhanna included Army standard test systems such as the AN/USM-410, the AN/GSM-340 and the AN/USM-465 as well as a host of application specific test systems.

The quantity of ATE at Tobyhanna increased dramatically around 2000 due to workload transitions that resulted from the Base Closure and Realignment process.

"Many of the ATE systems currently at Tobyhanna have been used for decades and become obsolete," Mercatili said. "In many instances, weapon systems have long outlived the systems designed to test and repair them."

ATE obsolescence issues typically lead to high maintenance costs, unacceptable test system down times and adversely impact production schedules.

In the past, Tobyhanna dealt with these obsolescence issues either by dedicating additional engineering resources to maintain ATE, using third party companies for equipment spares and service contracts, or by re-hosting test program sets to other existing in-house systems. These approaches often

proved to be costly in terms of money, time and resources, and served as a patch rather than a long-term fix to the problem.

Tobyhanna Army Depot has developed a new strategy to combat this problem by employing today's hardware and software technologies in the design and development of test systems that facilitate the rapid re-host of existing test program sets to modern test platforms.

"These newly-designed ATE systems are built using commercial-off-the shelf (COTS) test equipment and are controlled by personal computers running the Microsoft Windows operating system," Mercatili said.

Re-hosted test programs are re-written using innovative software products such as the National Instruments LabView graphical programming language and TestStand test sequence editor and test executive. Depot engineers used this commercial software architecture to create customizations within the TestStand test sequence editor to provide the framework for Test Program Set programming environments that promote rapid test program development.

Re-hosting is a process of moving a test program set (hardware and software) from one test platform to another.

"These customizations also serve to eliminate the possibility of future equipment obsolescence problems," Mercatili said. "Interface hardware is rapidly produced by third-party companies using documentation packages provided by Tobyhanna. With this approach the depot is better able to fulfill its extensive ATE requirements for functional and diagnostic testing."

For example, the ADADS (Army Depot Automated Diagnostic System), an ATE system, came to Tobyhanna as a result of base closures under BRAC 95. "The first two years of maintenance on that system cost approximately \$300,000," says Mercatili. "The mean time between failures was only days, so we had people dedicated to that system, trying to keep it alive. It got to the point where we couldn't do it any more, so we re-hosted it to a VXI based platform."

VXI is an acronym for VME Extension for Instrumentation. VME, or Versa Modular



**John Czar, electronic technician/programmer, sets up a test for the depot's new VXI Radio Frequency Test Platform. The system is being built and programmed to replace older radio frequency test platforms used in testing components of Firefinder, AN/GPN-22 and other radars. It will set up, measure, analyze and report test results automatically with greater speed and accuracy than current test platforms, which must be manually set for every test. Another system will be built to replace a test platform (second photo) that has been in service since the 1970s. Two racks and a computer will replace several racks. Czar works in the Test Program Development Division, Production Engineering Directorate. (Photos by Anthony Ricchiazzi)**

Eurocard bus, is a 32-bit computer bus architecture developed by a private company. It is widely used in industrial, commercial and military applications.

The transition involved 25 test programs and took a little under two years from

specification to deployment, at a cost of \$150,000. It paid for itself in 12 months.

"It's been deployed on the shop floor for roughly three years now and it's had only one hardware failure which was quickly remedied," says Mercatili.

## Progress quietly proceeds in Afghanistan, general says

by John J. Kruzel  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – More Afghan adults are employed; more of their children are attending school; and the Afghan government is expanding, the senior U.S. military commander in Afghanistan said.

"The Taliban have not achieved any of their objectives in the last year," Army Maj. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, commander of Combined Joint Task Force 76 and commanding general of the 10th Mountain Division, told reporters in the Pentagon via satellite connection from Afghanistan.

"By contrast, over the past year, U.S. forces and coalition partners have made great progress in the creation of a stable, secure and viable nation state in Afghanistan despite the Taliban's attempt to impede that progress," he said.

During a briefing on Afghanistan operations, Freakley discussed recent changes in the organizational structure

of security operations. "In the past few months, we've experienced significant changes in Afghanistan," he said. "On Oct. 6, Afghanistan completed its transition from the U.S.-led coalition to a NATO-led coalition headed by the International Security Assistance Force.

"Over the last two years, ISAF has assumed responsibility for security operations in five different provinces or regional commands: Center, North, West, South and now Regional Command East, which we command, which has 14 different provinces," he said. "We now have 26 NATO countries and 11 other nations that have staked their national reputation to the outcome in Afghanistan," he said.

Recent command changes will enlarge ISAF's and the international community's role in security operations, Freakley said.

In addition to expanded international effort, 3,200 U.S. Army soldiers with 10th Mountain Division have had their deployments extended to help continue progress in Afghanistan, Freakley added.

"Construction, education and economic development are indeed linked to security," he said. "And where there is infrastructure like roads and electricity, there are economic opportunities, ... which bring jobs."

Afghanistan's civic leaders and local civilians say unemployment is their greatest challenge, Freakley said.

"(Unemployment) has some men turning to terrorists for employment vs. serving their nation," he said. "Given the choice and means to achieve new goals, Afghans embrace new opportunity to better their lives and reject extremism."

The extension of U.S. troop deployment in the region and a \$10 billion aid package has encouraged optimism in the region, Freakley said.

The reconstruction aid "has buoyed the Afghan confidence in both the American commitment to this nation and the international commitment to Afghanistan, and their ability to withstand any type of terrorist activity (aimed at) taking back the progress they've made over the last five years," he said.

## WELCOME TO THE DEPOT

Name	Title	Organization
Michael Edwards	Electronics mechanic helper	D/ISR
David Feller	Sheet metal worker	D/SIS
Richard Feyjoo	Electronics equipment specialist	D/C3/Avionics
Patrick Hart	Painting worker	D/SIS
Simon Herchik	Electronics mechanic helper	D/C3/Avionics
Gregory Janeczek	Electronics mechanic helper	D/ISR
Paul Klimkos	Electronics mechanic helper	D/COMM SYS
Debra Orner	Secretary	D/RM
Michael Rac	Sheet metal worker	D/SIS
Marc Roman	Electronics mechanic helper	D/C3/Avionics
Donna Williams	Electronics mechanic helper	D/ISR

## RETIREEES

Three employees met with depot commander Col. Ron Alberto Jan. 29 before retiring.

**Barbara Pizur** was a contract administrator, Contract Administration Division, Contracting Directorate.

She worked at Tobyhanna from 1962 to 1968 and after a break in service returned in 1974.

Pizur resides in Scranton and has two sons: Ronald and Richard.

Her hobbies include reading, knitting, surfing and using the computer. After retirement she plans to spend more time with family and friends.

**Donald Herr** was a Training Administrator, New Equipment Training Division, Business Management Directorate.

He served six years in the Navy Reserve and 22 years in the Army National Guard, retiring as a master sergeant. He started working at Tobyhanna in 1978.

Herr resides in Elmhurst with his wife, Janice. They are the parents of

Lori Ann, and grandparents of Cassi, 8, and Kendrick, 4.

His hobbies include golfing, skiing, carpentry, hunting and other outdoor sports.

After retirement he plans to be a ski bum, spend time with his new wife, travel, visit family and develop his recently established real estate investing business.

**Joseph Kollra** was a criminal investigator, Security Division, Industrial Risk Management Directorate.

He served four years in the Air Force before starting work at Tobyhanna in 1980.

Kollra resides in Scranton with his wife, Veronica. They are the parents of Mary Margaret.

His hobbies include coaching basketball and playing guitar and keyboard. After retirement he plans to become more involved with the Knights of Columbus, coach basketball and take a part time job to keep from getting bored.

## THANKS

I would like to thank everyone who donated hundreds of items to help military members wounded in the Global War on Terrorism.

The Tobyhanna community purchased personal items such as pajamas, gloves, shoes, postage stamps, calling cards, razors and backpacks to ease the suffering of men and women during their lengthy hospital stays.

Your generosity was overwhelming.

**Sonya Walls**  
Relocation, mobilization/  
deployment specialist



Sonya Walls, right, and Gayla Debonise pack donated items for shipment.

**Answers to  
Black History  
Month puzzle,  
from Page 2.  
Actual answers  
are underlined.**

1. Sojourner Truth
2. Langston Hughes
3. Nat Turner
4. Cicely Tyson
5. Maya Angelou
6. Rosa Parks
7. Phyllis Wheatley
8. LeVar Burton
9. Ossie Davis
10. Ruby Dee
11. Peter Salem
12. Tyra Banks
13. Duke Ellington
14. Coretta Scott King
15. Mae Jemison
16. Count Basie

## NEW SUPERVISORS

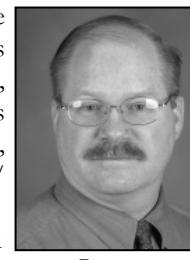
**Merle Burger** is the Command and Control Systems Branch chief, Command, Control and Computers Systems Division, Command, Control and Computers/Avionics Directorate.

As chief, he supervises 31 employees who perform work on all ruggedized systems, computers, shelters and associated assets for command control battlefield areas for field artillery, Air Force, intelligence, and maneuver control.

The branch also performs worldwide on-site fieldings.

Prior to his current position, Burger was a branch chief, Range Threat Division, C3/Avionics Directorate. He began his career at Tobyhanna in February 2001.

Burger served more than 11 years in the Marines.



Burger

He worked as a shop supervisor and maintenance controller on Sky Hawk close support aircraft while assigned at Yuma, Ariz.; Alameda, Calif.; Iwakuni and Okinawa, Japan; and Willow Grove.

His awards and decorations include the Navy Achievement Award with two oak leaf clusters, Humanitarian Award, Good Conduct Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Commander's Award, Letter of Commendation Award and Letter of Appreciation Award.

Burger is a 1982 graduate of Lincoln Way High School, New Lenox, Ill.

He and his wife, Desiree, reside in Albrightsville. They are the parents of Jessica, 22; Eric, 19; Katherine, 15; Bree-Ann, 12; Merle, 10; Devin, 10; Dominic, 9; Carissa, 3; Nicholas, 6 months, and grandparents to Jericho, 3.

Burger's hobbies include bowling, model building, computers and spending time with family.

## CAREER MILESTONE



From left, Philip Forgione, Barbara Burak, Alan Moraski, Mark Walter, depot commander Col. Ron Alberto, William Domenick, Richard George and Robert Aten attend the Length of Service Awards ceremony held Jan. 24.

Seven Tobyhanna Army Depot employees were recognized for their years of government service during the Jan. 24 Length of Service ceremony.

**William Domenick**, 35 years, food and beverage attendant, Food Service Division, Community Services Directorate.

**Mark Walter**, 35 years, lead electronics technician, Voice Communications Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

**Alan Moraski**, 30 years, waste water treatment plant operator, Utilities and Grounds Division, Public Works Directorate.

**Robert Aten**, 30 years, sheet metal mechanic leader, Industrial Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

**Barbara Burak**, 30 years, management assistant, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

**Philip Forgione**, 30 years, fabric worker, Industrial Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

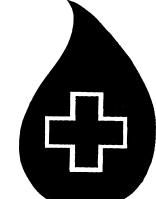
**Richard George**, 30 years, electrician, Electronic Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

In addition to service certificates and pins, 35-year honorees received an engraved clock, and 30-year honorees received a framed American flag and aerial photo of the depot.

Honorees who attend the ceremony get a four-hour time-off award. Depot commander Col. Ron Alberto presented the awards.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

The depot's Red Cross blood drive dates are the first and third Wednesday of each month. To schedule an appointment, employees must obtain supervisory approval and then call X57091.



# Youth, adult volunteers sew, send quilts to Soldiers deployed to fight war on terrorism

by Anthony Ricchiazzi  
Editor

Army Community Services Youth and adult volunteers made three patriotic quilts for Soldiers stationed in Iraq.

The quilts, made of decorated felt squares by 10 youth and three adults, were shipped to units such as the 226th Area Support Group; an Army National Guard unit based in Mobile, Ala., now in Al Assad Air Base, Iraq.

"We began making the felt quilts Oct. 20 and finished around Nov. 1," said Gayla Debonise, Army Volunteer Corps coordinator. "We used markers, yarn and beads to decorate each square. One of our adult volunteers (Angel Tucker) used a sewing machine to sew the squares together."

The idea came from Lori Giello, an education technician in the Technical Development Division, Business Management Directorate. Giello works with a lot of organizations that send things to deployed troops and provided unit names and addresses.

"I had to plan an activity for the kids and I chose to honor our troops," she said. "For the children in third through fifth grade, I gave them each a piece of white felt and they were allowed to decorate them as they wished. I collected them and had someone sew them together. Twenty-four felt quilts were sent to various units. I shared this information with Gayla and she asked if she could use my idea with her youth group."

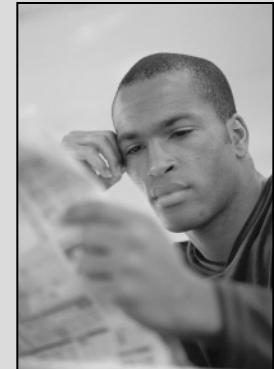
The volunteers, who range in age from 5 to 17, also sent coffee to the 226th Area Support Group donated by the Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 9 via the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Recruiting Company here on-post.

"The main thing that I love about the Youth Volunteers is that they have hearts of gold," Debonise said. "They are always ready and motivated to help in anyway they can. My hat goes off to their parents for raising such great kids."

In appreciation, Soldiers of the 226th ASG sent the volunteers a flag flown at the Al Assad Air Base garrison headquarters. Debonise says it will be displayed at the Army Community Services office in Building 1015.

## Feature stories sought

The Tobyhanna Reporter is looking for feature stories about depot employees. If you have, or know someone who has, an interesting story to tell, contact the Reporter staff (see contact information on Page 2). We've published articles about employee interests ranging from boat racing to blacksmithing; some have earned awards at the highest levels of the Army.



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN

**Editor's Note:** The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items.

Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to Jacqueline Boucher@tobyhanna.army.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076.

Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section.

Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer's responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin.

For information, call Jacqueline Boucher, X58073.



### VAN/CAR POOLS

- Swoyersville:** 1 opening, available April 1, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, house to house pickup, call Joe Belinka, X56229

- Dunmore, Throop, North Scranton:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, non-smoking, 5/4/9, pick up point is the YMCA parking lot, call Jody Oustrich, X57089.

- Childs, Jessup, Dunmore:** openings, van, non-smoking, 5/4/9, "A" placard, park and rides, call Larry Backman, X59329.

- Hazelton, Drums:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, non-smoking, shared driving, send e-mail to Brian.Sauers@tobyhanna.army.mil.

- Factoryville, LaPlume, Dalton, Clarks Summit:** 1 opening, "A" placard, non-smoking, 5/4/9, call Tom Talarico, X57081.

- Stroudsburg:** 1 opening, van, pickup in South Stroudsburg, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. shift, send e-mail to john.kulp@tobyhanna.army.mil.

- Childs, Jessup, Dunmore:** openings, van, non-smoking, 5/4/9, "A" placard, park and rides, call Larry Backman, X59329.

- Hackettstown, N.J.:** individual seeks car or van pool from NW New Jersey/Interstate 80 area, anyone traveling Interstate 80 West call Robin Lombardo, X57345

- West Scranton:** 2 openings, van, non-smoking, 7

passengers, Luzerne Street shopping center, 5/4/9, call Jim Mangan or Bill Flynn, X58184.

- Mountain Top, White Haven:** 1 opening, 7 passengers, van, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., meet in Mountain Top at 6:15 a.m. and pass through White Haven at 6:30 p.m., non-smoking, call Janet, X57532.

- Wilkes-Barre:** 2 openings, van, nonsmoking, 7 passengers, leaves Sam's Club parking lot at 5:45 a.m., 5/4/9, call John Alden, X58349 or X58640.

- Waymart, Carbondale:** openings, van, will pick up at Waymart Hotel and Meredith Street., 5/4/9, call Brian or John, X58754.

- Dunmore, Throop, surrounding areas:** 3 openings, van, 7 passengers, pick up at Holiday Inn in Dunmore, 5/4/9, contact Carmen Trubia, X59156 or send e-mail.

- Tripps Park, North Scranton:** individual seeks ride, van, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. or 7:30-4 p.m. shifts, call Al Auksunas, X59360.

- Jim Thorpe:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, "A" placard, contact Frank Lauth, X57361 or send e-mail to frank.lauth@tobyhanna.army.mil.

- Dallas, Shavertown, Exeter:** accepting names for waiting list, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, call Bob Redinski, X59184 or send e-mail.

- Wilkes Barre:** 1 opening, van, 15 passengers, non-smoking, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. shift, pick up across from K-Mart at 5:50 a.m., Wesley Dervinis, X56839.



### TRADING POST

- Misc items:** Ladder, 10 foot, Louisville fiberglass, heavy-duty, folding, new over \$300, asking \$200; extension ladder, 36-foot, Louisville fiberglass, new over \$600, asking \$375; Knaack Jobmaster 36 work box, new \$230, asking \$140 OBO; cable, 75 feet, 75ohm, dual RG6, black, \$10; DeWalt DW402 used grinder with case, \$30, call Chuck or Pam, 752-6934.

- Horse:** AQHA registered gelding sorrel, Western and English flatwork, current on shots and coggins, stands for vet, farrier clips, baths and loads; skilled in parades, 4-H showings and team penning and barrels; loves games and trail rides, experienced rider only, asking \$2,000, call Renee, 842-1511.

- Misc. items:** electronic hockey table, tallies scores, paid \$299, asking \$125; Casio keyboard with stand, keys light up to teach user how to play, like new, paid \$199, asking \$125; portable basketball hoop, asking \$30; kitchen table, 4 chairs, wooden tabletop and iron legs, \$100; bedroom set, full-size bed, dresser with mirror, chest of drawers, 2 night stands, does not include mattress, asking \$100, call Lisa or Jerry, 876-3053, leave a message.

- House:** 2-story, 7 rooms, 1 bath, unfinished basement, oil/electric heat, replacement windows, detached 2-car garage, 2 storage buildings, .87 acre, on Route 348, Jefferson Township, North Pocono School District, asking \$189,000, call 689-7692 or 689-4796.

- Exercise equipment:** Gazelle Freestyle Elite, like new, asking \$150, call Kathy, 894-4265

- Misc. items:** Pro Form Crosswalker/365s, Sears model, monitors and gauges, asking \$300; exercise bike with arm pulls, Sears model, asking \$150; Hummels, call to make an appointment; and 1800 antique Mason/Hammon foot-pedal reed organ, asking \$1,500 OBO, call Norma, 842-6965.

- Tires/rims:** 4 Goodyear Eagle LS P195/65R15, mounted on new Chrysler rims (PT Cruiser), less than 25 miles on them, asking \$200, call Jeff Ciaruffoli, 690-8140

- Snow tires:** 4, Champiro 65TR15, used 4 months, like new, asking \$150 OBO, call Lori 587-2646.

- Misc. items:** Class 2 hitch, 2006 and earlier, Caravan/Town and Country, without stow-and-go seats, \$75; Class 3 hitch, 2006 and later, Caravan/Town and Country, with stow-and-go seats, paid \$185, asking \$100; bra for 2003/2005 Sonata, paid \$165, asking \$70; 4 new faucets, for claw-type bathtub, imported from Germany, paid \$1,500, asking \$500, call Art Kearney, 610-681-8306.

- Snow tires:** 4, Bridgestone Blizzak, size 205/60R16, used 3 seasons, inspected by Kost Tire and Auto Service and rated very good condition, \$200 for all, call 585-4068, leave message.

- Trailer:** Free, 1970, 12x60 Parkwood, good condition, must be moved, Hazleton area; 1996 Taurus wagon, \$2,000; 1996 Taurus sedan, \$1,500, both in good condition, call Mary at 455-6833.

- Television:** flat screen, Phillips, 51 inches, rear projection, HDTV, remote, like new, \$950, call 342-2197.

- Snow tires:** P205-70-15, Snow Tracker radial ST/2, used one season, \$30 for both, call Gloria or Jim, 876-3978



## Visitors tour depot

(Above) Janelle Marchione, left, electronics mechanic leader, discusses Reset efforts on the AN/ALQ-144, Infrared Countermeasures System with Lt. Gen. William Mortensen, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command, during a tour of Tobyhanna Army Depot Jan. 31. Marchione works in the Avionics Division, Command, Control and Computers-Avionics Directorate. (Right) Rear Adm. Charlie Lilli, left, commander Defense Supply Center Columbus, Columbus, Ohio, listens as Wayne Watkins talks about the AGM-65 Imaging Infrared Maverick guidance and control section, during an orientation visit Jan. 22. Watkins is the Sidewinder Missile Branch supervisor, Maverick Missile Branch, C3 Avionics. (Photos by Steve Grzezdzinski)



**DoD presents record \$15.6 million to Combined Federal Campaign**

**by Donna Miles**  
**American Forces Press Service**

WASHINGTON—Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England praised “the extraordinarily generous” Defense Department members today as he presented a check representing \$15.6 million in contributions they made to the National Capital Area Combined Federal Campaign.

Speaking at the annual CFC awards ceremony at the Pentagon, England thanked the DoD work force for its largest-ever CFC pledge. DoD’s goal for 2006 was to collect \$13 million in CFC contributions, but its employees topped all expectations with \$15.6 million in pledges, he noted.

England presented a larger-than-life check representing the contribution to Anthony De Cristofaro, director of the National Capital Area CFC campaign.

DoD’s participation rate was 56 percent, nearly double the national participation rate of 32.5 percent, noted Army Brig. Gen. Mark Brown from the CFC Local Federal Coordinating Committee.

“Your fast start, strong finish and generous habits have every other federal department or agency in the community envious,” Brown told the group assembled for the ceremony. “No other agency can match you for the combined influence that your giving, enthusiasm and participation have on this community.”

England quoted the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who once said, “Life’s most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”

DoD military and civilian workers alike demonstrate their willingness to help others every day, England said. He noted that they serve their nation and community professionally as well as on their own time and with their own hard-earned money.

These efforts are helping make “a better community, a better nation and a better world,” he said.

England praised the CFC effort as “a program that really sells itself” and makes people want to participate. “At the end of the day, it’s about helping others,” he said.

# Casey: Army transformation successful in Iraq

**by Sgt. Sara Wood**  
**American Forces Press Service**

WASHINGTON—The Army faces significant challenges in the years ahead, but it is still the world’s preeminent land power and has not been overly strained by the war on terror, Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commander of Multinational Force Iraq, said here Feb. 1.

Casey, who has commanded in Iraq since July 2004, is

President Bush’s pick to be the next Army chief of staff. Speaking at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Service Committee, Casey expressed confidence in U.S. soldiers.

“I see in Iraq every day a splendid Army,” Casey said. “I know that (current Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker) has problems with the forces yet to deploy and with some of the strategic elements that will deploy later, but from what I see in Iraq, the Army is far from broken.”

Casey said he believes in the Army vision and transformation, and that his position in Iraq has given him an opportunity to see the Army at work in the war on terror. Today’s soldiers are the best he has seen in his entire career and make a difference in Iraq every day, he said. He pledged that U.S. soldiers and their families will be his top priority if confirmed.

The Army’s transformation to a lighter, modular-based force has been successful in Iraq, Casey said. The smaller units are able to handle the complexities of the war in Iraq, he said, and transformation will continue to be important in the Army’s future.

Casey also noted the importance of the Army National Guard and Reserve to the service’s mission. The United States is approaching a point where half of Guard and reserve troops are combat veterans, and these troops will be essential to future operations, he said.

The proposed increase in Army end strength of 65,000 troops over five years is adequate, Casey said, and the new strategy to secure Iraq can work. He noted that Iraqi security forces have assumed control of security in several provinces. The main challenge remains in Baghdad, where sectarian violence has surged, he said.

“For the Iraqis to successfully assume and sustain security responsibility, their security forces must emerge as the dominant security forces in the country,” Casey said.

“To do this, political and militia influence over the security forces must be eliminated and levels of sectarian violence, particularly in the capital, must be brought down substantially – brought down to the point where the people in Baghdad can be safe in their neighborhoods. This is what we are working toward in Baghdad. It will take time, and the Iraqis do need our help.”

Casey said he recognizes the tremendous responsibilities associated with the chief of staff position. He is willing to take it on because he views it as his duty, and he is committed to the future of the Army, he said.

“I’m a soldier. My roots are in the Army, and I know the pride of wearing this uniform,” Casey said. “Service as Army chief of staff is not a reward. It’s a duty. It’s about service, and commitment to the men and women of the United States Army.”



**Staff Sgt. Josh Rivera practices courtesy and cultural understanding when he speaks to a local Iraqi during an information gathering mission in the Fedilayah area of east Baghdad. Rivera is from Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Bronco Suzuki)**